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PALM-LEAF BASKETS EQUIP THIS STATELY BERBER FOR ALMOST ANYTHING IN THE MOVING LINE

Closely woven of split palm leaves, large, light baskets (Bulletin No. 4) are all-purpose carriers for this Berber woman of north Africa's Sahara. The flexible containers may transport anything from vegetables to the soil that grows them. When empty, they weigh little more than her massive bracelets or coin-strung necklace.

Bulletin No. 1, January 24, 1949

China's Yangtze Now Divides, Not Unites

ON THE vast stage of warring China, the Yangtze (illustration, next page), one of the Orient's mightiest actors since history began, may be cast in a new role.

Breadwinner, communications giant, and long champion of union among the sons of Han, the 3,100-mile river now seems destined for military duty as a great barrier against further penetration by communist arms into the shrinking territories of nationalist China.

Key to Central China

And formidable hurdle it is. In the threatened Nanking sector the river averages about a mile in width. This is about four times the shore-to-shore distance at World War II's major assault points along the Rhine, last big river barrier to be forced in the face of resistance.

The Yangtze might well be called a key to China's heartland. So gentle is its descent from Hankow to the sea that inland ports are as accessible to ocean-going steamers as is coastal Shanghai. It makes it possible for the steel of Hanyang to compete in world markets, although produced 710 river-miles from the sea.

Along a twisting course, the river passes through two of Asia's most fertile regions—the Szechwan Basin and the "Rice Bowl" along Tung Ting Lake, east of Changteh and southwest of Hankow.

Seasonal changes of level are sharp, so much so that steamers berth at floating hulks rather than at stationary piers. At Chungking, a stone-paved island airfield sometimes lies under 50 feet of water.

For all its valued service to the nation's commerce, the Yangtze is an untiring thief. It carries off the good earth of China to color the Yellow Sea. Far out from the shore of Asia, travelers see the change of color. But few may pause to reflect that it means the patient farmers, in a land of hunger, are being relentlessly robbed of the very wherewithal on which they must live.

War Postpones Development

The loot of the river is enormous. It has been estimated that if man were to spirit away a comparable load, every person on earth would have to carry 50 pounds of fertile soil a distance of ten miles each working day in the year.

The current situation has dimmed immediate prospects for harnessing the Yangtze by building dams to furnish electricity for power, light, and irrigation. So widespread has been the communist advance that a halt has been called in United States aid for a needed construction program. The greatest reclamation undertaking in Asia must wait more peaceful times.

One of the big pending projects is to dam the mighty Ichang Gorge of the Yangtze and back up a giant reservoir storing the melted run-off from Tibetan ice fields. The power plant would develop 10,560,000 kilowatts and irrigate 10,000,000 acres of good land.

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DOUGLAS L. OLIVER

WITH SOLOMONLIKE WISDOM, A SOLOMON ISLAND CHIEF DISPLAYS THE FOOD FOR A FREE FEAST

A man's greatness on Bougainville is measured by the amount of food he is able to give away, hence this effective outdoor advertising which will bring more feasters to eat more food. The tower supports vegetables, fruits, and other delicacies of these South Pacific islands where Japanese and Americans fought some of World War II's bitterest battles (Bulletin No. 3).

Bulletin No. 2, January 24, 1949

Tales of Pirate Gold Cling to Suwannee River

NEW efforts to find pirate gold "'Way down upon de Swanee River" in Florida revive tales never set to music about the stream immortalized by Stephen Foster a century ago.

Indian guides told the early explorers from Europe that the Suwannee, as it is properly spelled, flowed over beds of gold. But the legends that inspire periodic gold hunts actually apply to Suwannee Sound on the Gulf of Mexico, and the river's lower reaches where pirate vessels could hide. It is in this general area that the latest treasure hunt got under way late in 1948.

Five Million in Gold in Thirty Feet of Water

One tale that persists is that several concrete chests containing gold bars of Louisiana Purchase money, stolen by pirates, were cached at charted points along the lower stream. In that historic transaction of 1803 with France, $15,000,000 changed hands, but available records fail to show that any part was paid in gold.

A seemingly more substantial clue dates back to 1820, when an American schooner carrying $5,000,000 in gold is supposed to have sunk in 30 feet of water at the Suwannee's mouth. The gold was designated for payment to Spanish citizens of Florida as indemnity at the time the peninsula was purchased by the United States. None of it has been salvaged.

Foster, the gifted Pittsburgh composer, had never seen the winding Suwannee when he gave the world the "Old Folks at Home" in 1851. Early drafts made South Carolina's Pee Dee the river of his song, but Foster finally chose "Swanee" because it was more melodious.

The stream flows southwestward in a winding course from Georgia's Okefinokee Swamp (map, next page). Only 35 of its 250 miles lie in Georgia. Much of its journey is between high banks lined with green thickets that shelter small game and an occasional alligator. Live oaks and water oaks, festooned with long graceful filaments of Spanish moss, add beauty in some stretches.

Stephen Foster Glade at White Springs

The living is easy in the clusters of tumbledown cabins on Suwannee banks where bass, perch, and catfish respond to the simplest lure. "Bright Virginia" tobacco, corn, cotton, peanuts, and livestock are the staples of Suwannee plantations.

An historic spot near White Springs, where the much-traveled Dixie Highway (U. S. 41) crosses the river, has been designated as the Stephen Foster Glade.

Among traditions is one that the river, so celebrated in song, took its name from Su-Wannee, an Indian princess who ruled a tribe that lived in the Okefinokee Swamp and along the rivers flowing from it.

More plausible, perhaps, is the explanation that the Negroes slurred the Spanish name, San Juanee, meaning Little St. Johns as distinguished from the larger St. Johns River of eastern Florida.

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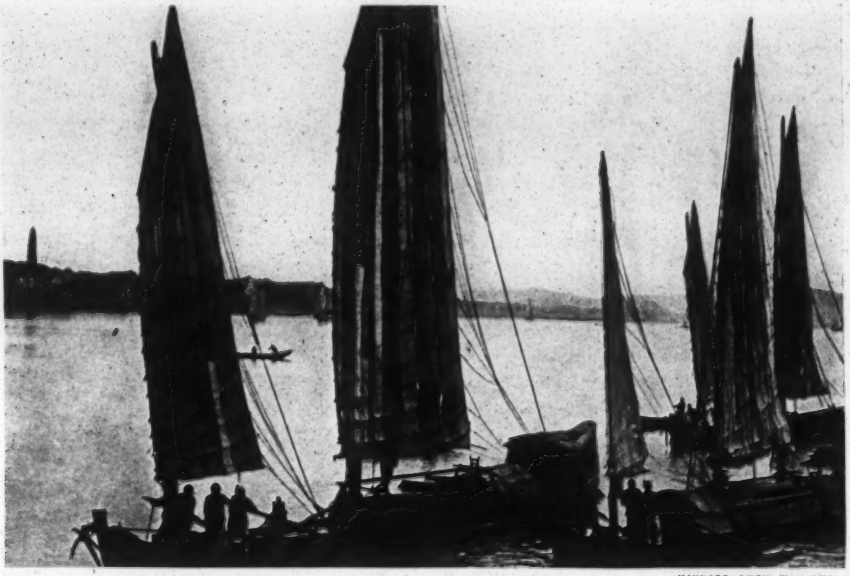
When that great dam becomes China's Grand Coulee, ocean steamers can dock beside the steep stone stairways of Chungking, so often blasted by Japanese planes before and during World War II, and so often defended by General Claire Chennault's "Flying Tigers."

Born in the central-Asian wastes higher above the sea than Pike's Peak, spending its tumultuous youth in Tibetan borderlands, flowing silently past the tall walls of Nanking, the Yangtze in a military role may be headed for a chapter of frustration, its mighty usefulness postponed while it does duty as a water wall between communist-held China and the territory still controlled by the nationalists.

NOTE: The course of the Yangtze may be traced on the National Geographic Society's map of China. Write the Society, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "Along the Yangtze, Main Street of China," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1948; "The Rise and Fall of Nanking," February, 1938*; and "Through the Great River Trenches of Asia," August, 1926. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 3, 1949, "War's Tide Again Surges Toward Nanking"; and "The Long Thread of the Yangtze Helps Hold China Together," February 11, 1946.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

LIKE THE MISSISSIPPI, THE YANGTZE OPENS A BROAD AVENUE OF TRAVEL TO INLAND AREAS

Ocean-going vessels nose as far upstream as Hankow, 700 river-miles inland. Junks like these go much farther. They carry most of the Chinese river's trade. Also they ferry passengers and goods across the broad stream that is not crossed by a single bridge from far above Chungking to the sea.

COLOR PICTURES FROM THE *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*

Reliable aids in visual education are the many separate color pages from the National Geographic Magazine. *Subjects covered include the United States, foreign countries, and natural history. 48 sheets for 30¢ and 96 sheets for 50¢. Write for subject list and order blank.*

Jungle Covers Solomon Islands' War Scars

"I AM the jungle; I cover all."

Thus might Irving Johnson, skipper of the globe-girdling *Yankee,* have paraphrased Carl Sandburg's words describing nature's way of covering the scars of warfare.

Captain Johnson, reporting from the Solomon Islands, has revealed that this famous battle area of World War II is already reverting to its natural state. The jungle has hidden the marks of battle. The hungry vine has enveloped rusted rows of war machinery that were left behind. Huge cleared areas where hundreds of thousands of fighting men were based are now marked only by a tumbledown Quonset hut or two. Rotting landing craft, left on the beaches, are being pounded to pieces by the surf.

Black Hair Bleached

Even the natives, almost forgetting the strange period in their lives a few years ago when their homes became the site of a life-and-death struggle between peoples they had never heard of, again have taken up their Stone-age life where it was interrupted.

As with primitive peoples everywhere, the Solomon Islanders make much of headdress (illustration, next page). On some islands, the stocky black-skinned men bleach their hair. Natural hair-mops in the Solomon Islands are black, but bleaching extends the range to golden blond. Some coiffures have blond streaks down the middle; some are mottled blond and black. Some even have a bright copper tinge.

Bleaching kinky, woolly hair with coral lime is a practice on many South Sea Islands. It often marks the marriageable young man who wants to look his handsome best. The first bleaching, a diploma from childhood, is often marked with ceremony.

Guadalcanal is one of the Solomon Islands where pipe-smoking by both sexes seems continuous. On many of the islands, betel nut is the universal "chewing gum," permanently staining lips and teeth. Betel nut, tobacco, taro, and shell money are the treasures of life.

Malaita Never Occupied by Japs

Bone ornaments are worn in pierced noses and slit ear lobes. Pigs' tusks make neck charms for Solomon tribes. Countless superstitions have origin in such commonplaces as darkness, earthquakes, and thunderstorms.

Malaita, northeast across "the slot" from Guadalcanal, was not occupied by Japanese forces. Smaller than Guadalcanal, it has three times as many inhabitants. The only Solomon Island rivaling its total of 45,000 natives is Bougainville (illustration, inside cover).

Malaita coastal dwellers, who make their living from the sea, must be on guard against sudden raids by their inland-dwelling cousins. The bush natives of this island were among the last to give up head-hunting.

To escape attack from the interior, coast natives commute by canoe to small islets offshore. On Auki, such an islet off Malaita's coast, a native mint makes the shell money used widely in the Solomon Islands.

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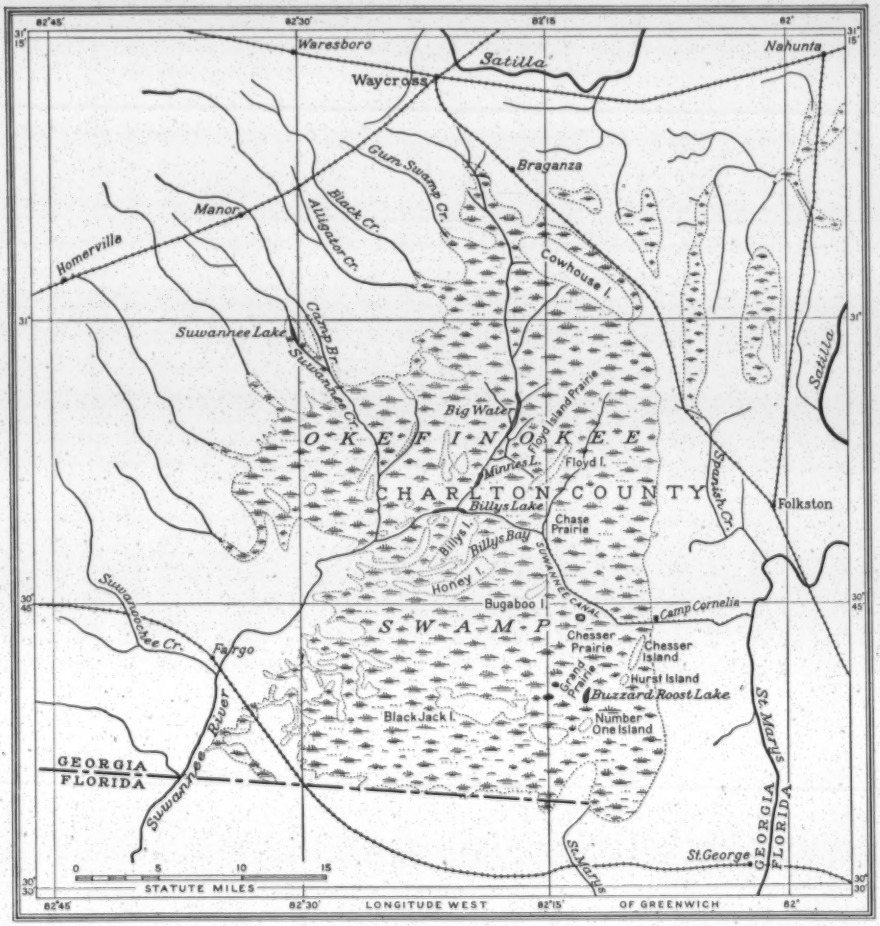
A local Florida movement, well supported at times, would have divided the state in two at the Suwannee River. Gainesville, east of the river, seat of the state university and college of agriculture, would have become capital of an all-peninsular Florida. Tallahassee would have been capital of a separate state to the west. Little but interesting conjecture ever has come of the idea, however.

NOTE: The Suwannee River may be located on the Society's map of the Southeastern United States.

For additional information, see "The Okefinokee Wilderness," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1934.



DRAWN BY NEWMAN BUMSTEAD

THE STRANGE WORLD OF OKEFINOKEE SWAMP GIVES RISE TO THE SLUGGISH SUWANNEE

Islands are relatively dry portions of the swamp. Prairies are watery glades where boats are necessary. Between prairies and watercourses, boats are pulled by oxen along "ditch roads," shallow man-made trenches. Note the repetition of Suwannee as a place name: river, creek, lake, and canal: and a variant form, Suwanoochee Creek.

Bulletin No. 4, January 24, 1949

Basket Weaving Boomed by War and Picnics

ENGLAND'S ancient basket-weaving craft, eclipsed between world wars by a flood of cheap imported basketware, is again flourishing. Business has been on the upgrade since 1940. At that early period of World War II, trained weavers were mobilized to produce light, elastic willow baskets which were urgently needed for dropping supplies to Allied troops from the air.

Nearly a century ago, other—and vastly different—circumstances brought a period of prosperity to ancestors of England's present basket-weaving families. Responsible for the earlier popularity of these willow containers was the introduction of the picnic—that festivity which transferred the meal from the conventional dining room far afield into the open air.

Willow Finds Its Way into Varied Items

When the Crystal Palace Exhibition opened in London, in 1851, the cloistered ladies of that mid-Victorian era surprised even themselves with their urge to travel to London to visit the fair. The city's public inns and chophouses were quite unprepared to serve the gentler sex.

The problem of where to feed these venturesome ladies was solved when one of London's oldest willow weavers brought out the picnic basket in 1852. It touched off a basketry boom that lasted into the automobile age and found the guild making not only lunch, tea, and fruit baskets, laundry and linen hampers, but cradles, chairs, tables, and other items of furniture.

For picnics of the 1850's as for parachute drops of the 1940's, baskets, hand-woven of tough willow, suited the need of the hour. Springy as well as light, they were unsurpassed for cushioning the bric-a-brac or delicate instruments they held.

When the Romans invaded Britain in the first century before Christ, they found the native Celts making baskets. Called the forerunner of all the textile (or weaving) arts, the craft is one in which hands defeat machines. The willow withes vary too greatly to be successfully woven by machine.

Grow in Swamp Areas

The chief center of basket weaving continues to be London, but there are firms located in several outlying towns. The industry is an expanding part of the British government's program of opportunity for the blind and disabled. Thousands of such handicapped persons have already found employment in the craft.

On the marshy lowlands of Somerset in southwest England, and in other swamp areas, farmers cultivate osier beds, as the willow plantations are called. Soggy bottomland is plowed and planted in shoots. These grow straight, and closely packed, sometimes as high as 13 feet.

June is the chief harvest month. The osiers are cut, stripped, bundled into "wads," and boiled in tanks, ready to be collected by the

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Coast tribes of several islands build graceful war canoes from light boards. Holes through small knobs left on the hand-hewn planks enable the boat-builders to lace the whole craft together. Thirty or forty paddlers drive the trim hulls swiftly through the water.

The islanders are strong and willing workers. They can shoulder heavy loads and carry them all day, uphill and down, without even puffing. During the war, they demonstrated an uncanny ability for spotting Japs within firing range.

NOTE: The Solomon Islands are shown in a large-scale inset on the Society's map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

For additional information, see "The *Yankee's* Wander-world," by Irving and Electa Johnson, in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1949; "Fiji Patrol on Bougainville," January, 1945*; "Painting History in the Pacific" (19 color reproductions of paintings), October, 1944; "Jungle War" (17 color reproductions of paintings), April, 1944; and "At Ease in the South Seas," January, 1944*.

DOUGLAS L. OLIVER

NOT A DUNCE CAP, THIS SIWAI PIPE-PLAYER'S PALM-LEAF HAT IS A MARK OF DISTINCTION

A sliver of bone decorates his nose. From his set of hollow bamboo pipes he coaxes a shrill tune to accompany the speeches and songs of a Solomon Islands feast.

Bulletin No. 5, January 24, 1949

Peanuts and Power Paced 1948 Engineering

EXPANSION of western Europe's airports to accommodate airlift traffic, progress on the "Groundnuts Scheme" in British East Africa, and a worldwide rash of dam building for both irrigation and electric power were highlights in engineering and construction achievements of 1948.

To make possible the daily flow of enough food and fuel to maintain blockaded western Berlin, the Tegel airstrip in the city's French sector was built. Tempelhof and Gatow fields, in the American and British zones respectively, were enlarged. Fields at Schleswig, Wiesbaden, and elsewhere, serving as bases for the airlift run, were expanded.

Little-known Mikindani, midway on Africa's east coast, leaped forward in its new role as "Port Peanut." Port construction moved ahead in the town's natural harbor. Inland, tent villages sprang up as natives started railway and road building and clearing big forested areas. Tanganyika holds most of the 5,000-square-mile total to become farmland under the Groundnuts (peanuts) Scheme, which aims at increasing "austerity" Britain's supply of edible oils. Other parts of Africa have been peanut producers for years (illustration, next page).

Big United States dams in construction were Bull Shoals in northwest Arkansas and Hungry Horse in northwest Montana. The Folsom Dam on California's American River was started. The Conemaugh Dam in western Pennsylvania is the seventh of the 13 planned to reduce flood danger at Pittsburgh. The Pasco unit of the Columbia-basin program pumped its first irrigation waters onto dry Washington State farmland.

Norway, France, Scotland, Mexico, Turkey, the Soviet Union, India, and Puerto Rico all showed symptoms of TVA fever. Two miles from Loch Lomond, the Scots finished one of 29 projects in a ten-year hydroelectric-power plan. The Hol station, making power for Oslo, is the twelfth completed in Norway since World War II. Three big dams in progress on the Rhône and one on the Dordogne should mean that France's costly coal imports can eventually be cut.

At Ampezzo, north of Trieste, Italy completed a 450-foot-high power dam called the highest in Europe. At Kingston-on-Thames, King George dedicated the first of 25 power plants scheduled by the new British Electric Authority.

Houston and Memphis, in 1948, launched big harbor-expansion programs. Rio de Janeiro began doubling its dock space, while Buenaventura, Columbia, serving a coffee-growing area, completed port expansion.

At Monrovia, Liberia opened the largest deepwater harbor on Africa's west coast. Progreso, Yucatan, exporting sisal and rope, built a mile-long dock into the Gulf of Mexico to reach water 18 feet deep.

New York City, reaching farther northwestward for the water it consumes, pushed construction of the big Rondout and Neversink reservoirs in the lower Catskills. It began work on Pepacton Reservoir, to impound Delaware River headwaters, 120 miles distant by aqueduct route. Boston worked at cutting a 15-foot aqueduct through five miles of rock to increase flow to city taps.

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manufacturers. During the sorting and grading, some unpeeled stalks are set aside for rustic basketwork. Most of the long, slim twigs are peeled to be woven whole. Fine work calls for withes peeled and split into three or four "skains" or sections.

Where Alfred the Great Burned the Cakes

England's greatest single area of osier beds lies around the village of Athelney, in central Somerset. Now on a mound in the angle where the Tone and Parrett rivers meet, the village site was an island amid the swamps in the time of Alfred the Great.

On this "Island of Athelney," the oppressed monarch took temporary refuge in 878 to plan his campaign against the Danes. There, according to the famous legend, Alfred, posing as a stranger, was roundly berated by a herdsman's wife for letting her cakes burn, after she had given him shelter in her cottage.

The ancient craft of basketry is practiced the world around. From the Orient to northern Africa (illustration, cover), to the northeastern United States (illustration, below), the light flexible containers are woven by fingers black, brown, white, and yellow. They are fashioned of willow, palm, sisal, and other vegetable fibers, and in shapes as varied as the materials from which they are woven.

HARRISON HOWELL WALKER

PENOBSCOT WOMEN OF OLD TOWN, MAINE, CARRY ON AN ANCIENT ART

Although the craft of basketry has been allowed to die out among many of the Indians of the eastern United States, these Penobscot women weave baskets as their grandmothers did before the white men came. A curved, cylindrical shape is fashioned by fastening thinly split strips of wood around a barrel-shaped form. With this as the base of the basket, gaily dyed grasses are woven around the splints in a pattern possibly handed down from mother to daughter from ancient times.

President Truman, in July, dedicated gigantic Idlewild Airport on Jamaica Bay, Queens Borough, New York City. Big new airports progressed at Johannesburg, South Africa, and Beirut, Lebanon. Amsterdam's Schipol Airport was enlarged. So were Indian fields at Bombay, Calcutta, and Delhi. Britain opened a flying-boat base at Southampton.

Construction men worked at highway building from New York to San Diego, from Fairbanks to Capetown. New York City opened a final link of the West Side Express Highway, part of which has served 18 years. San Diego completed the seven-mile Cabrillo Freeway with several cloverleafs and a 200-foot right of way.

United States Army Engineers, virtually within the calendar year, completed a 430-mile Athens-to-Salonika highway system, which, by connection with cross routes, brings a vast improvement to transportation in troubled Greece. Turkey built most of a 282-mile modern highway connecting Ankara and Istanbul. India claimed a major achievement in rushing a 65-mile route across rugged mountain country from East Punjab into contested Kashmir.

Mexico greatly improved its expanding railroad system with a Sonoro-Baja California link and a junction between central and Yucatan lines. London added 10 miles to its overburdened subway system.

BURTON HOLMES FROM GALLOWAY

THE ELEPHANT'S FAVORITE FOOD IS PILED IN ELEPHANTINE HEAPS AT DAKAR

The French West African capital is one of the world's leading peanut exporters. Britain is promoting the raising of this nutritious and versatile plant in some of its African colonies.